

Talinum sediforme van Poellnitz

Okanogan fameflower

Portulacaceae (Purslane Family)

Status: State Watch

Rank: G3?S3

General Description: Adapted from Hitchcock et al. (1964): A glabrous perennial with a branched caudex and usually numerous branching, fleshy, ascending stems $\frac{1}{16}$ to $\frac{1}{8}$ inch thick, forming cushions usually less than 2 inches broad. Leaves fleshy, linear-subterete, $\frac{1}{16}$ inch broad, $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long, deciduous except for (usually) the hardened basal portions in minute bracteate, spreading, flat-topped cymes mostly $\frac{3}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch long, peduncles mostly $\frac{3}{4}$ to 2 inches long. Sepals about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch long. Petals suborbicular-obovate, $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ inch long. White or sometimes yellowish or pinkish, soon withering. Capsule about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch long. Seeds $<\frac{1}{16}$ inch long, black and shining.

Identification Tips: The succulent life form, prostrate habit, and clusters of short cylindrical leaves distinguish it from almost all other species with which it occurs. *Talinum sediforme* does resemble *Sedum lanceolatum*. *Sedum lanceolatum*, however, has perennial leaves, and small, yellow flowers, whereas *Talinum sediforme* has entirely deciduous leaves and white flowers. Other characters include leaf margins that are scarious and at least narrowly winged in *Talinum sediforme* versus fleshy and chlorophyllous in *Sedum lanceolatum* and reddish-brown, woody, and a weakly transverse-wrinkled tap root in *Talinum sediforme* versus a deep maroon, fleshy, smooth taproot in *Sedum lanceolatum*.

Phenology: Blooms late May through July.

Range: Found in the lower mountains of Okanogan and Ferry counties, Washington and southern British Columbia. In Washington, the species is found only in the Okanogan Highlands physiographic province.

Habitat: Sparsely vegetated, open, generally rocky areas on several aspects between 2700 and 5300 feet (WA). The taxon is found predominantly on thin soils over exposed rock. The immediate microsites are sparsely vegetated, primarily with herbaceous

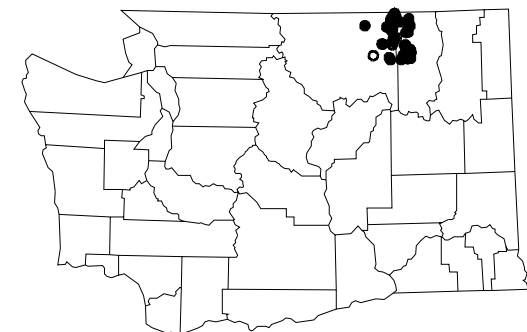
Talinum sediforme

Okanogan fameflower



©1964 University of Washington Press. Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish.

Known distribution of
Talinum sediforme in
Washington



● Current (1980+)
○ Historic (older than 1980)

Talinum sediforme
Okanogan fameflower



Talinum sediforme
Okanogan fameflower

Habitat (cont): species, including *Allium robinsonii*, *Erigeron compositus*, *Lewisia rediviva*, *Lomatium* sp., *Penstemon fruticosus*, *Potentilla glandulosa*, *Sedum* sp., *Selaginella* sp., and *Woodsia oregana*.

Ecology: The species is well adapted to prolonged drought. Few other vascular plants are able to compete with it within its habitat. The species is probably not adapted to fire since it occurs in relatively barren areas which would not support a fire.

State Status Comments: The species occurs within a very limited range in Washington.

Inventory Needs: Additional inventory is needed along the periphery of its current range. The sites for several older records for this species should be revisited to develop a current assessment of the status of the species.

Threats and Management Concerns: Due to the nature of the habitat (rock ledges and outcrops) there are few serious threats to the species. Grazing is a potential threat, although grazing occurs or has a history of occurring at many of the known locations with little obvious impact to the species. Cattle grazing may introduce non-native species that would compete with *Talinum sediforme*. Recreational ORV use is also potential threat.

Comments: Synonymous with *Talinum okanoganense* English.

References:

Hitchcock, C. L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, and J.W. Thompson. 1964. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest, Part 2: Salicaceae to Saxifragaceae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle. 597 pp.